

REMARKS

Claims 15, 16, and 18 have been amended to correct typographical errors. Applicant respectfully submits that these changes are purely pedantic in nature and do not affect the scope of the claims.

Rejections under section 112, par. 1

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner incorrectly contends that only one example of a polygon is shown in the disclosure. Fig. 2B shows a square with 2 parts, while Fig. 2C shows a hexagon with 3 parts. Accordingly, two examples of a polygon are shown. Moreover, original claims 3 and 4 make reference to a polygonal shape. Accordingly, the concept of a generalized polygon was clearly in the possession of the inventor at the time the application was filed.

Withdrawal of the rejection is accordingly respectfully requested.

Art rejections

The art rejections are respectfully traversed.

Since the references are complex, Applicant will confine his remarks to those portions of the references cited by the Examiner, except as otherwise indicated. Applicant makes no representation as to the contents of other portions of the references.

The Examiner's other rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the following. Nevertheless, Applicant reserves the right to respond to those rejections and arguments and to advance additional arguments at a later date. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

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Nishida/Konishi

The Examiner appears to state that a resist solution is a coating. Applicant respectfully disagrees. A resist solution is a solution that is used for surface preparation, not a coating. A photoresist coating film, per col. 1 of Konishi, is not the same thing as a resist solution. Applicant accordingly respectfully submits that the Examiner mischaracterizes the Konishi reference.

Moreover, as far as Applicant can tell, the body 32a and 32b of Konishi is used for a different purpose from that of the invention. This body is used to catch flying solutions during spinning. It does not appear to be for use in providing a coating or for separation after the coating has been solidified. Applicant accordingly respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have used elements 32a and 32b in combination with Nishida as the Examiner does, in other words that the combination of Nishida and Konishi was arrived at only through impermissible hindsight in light of Applicants' disclosure.

Boeki

In rejecting claims relating to the parts of the extension body, the Examiner adds the Boeki reference. Boeki appears to be incompatible technology. As Applicant understands the reference, the frame around the substrate is elevated above the surface of the substrate rather than being substantially flush. The excess coating appears to be caught and removed when liquid, rather than when cured. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would not combine this older technology with Nishida, except through impermissible

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hindsight in light of Applicants' disclosure. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are accordingly respectfully requested.

Polygonal extension body functional advantages

The Examiner's statements at the bottom of page 12 and top of page 13 of the office action seem to be based on the idea that somehow a square is not a polygon. Applicant respectfully submits that this is incorrect. A square is an example of a polygon. The application gives 2 examples of polygons: a square and a hexagon. The original claims refer to polygons in general. The advantages of corners in the square as disclosed in the spec are clearly due to their being corners, which are also present in the hexagon. The Examiner's idea that the functional advantages of the invention are not clearly set forth with respect to polygons in general is a misconstruction of the application.

The Examiner has not indicated where the references teach or suggest that that liquid pools at corners or that that property would be useful in this context.

The statement by the Examiner that a larger surface might collect more liquid does not make sense. The size of the extension body is an independent issue from its shape. A circle might or might not be smaller than a square. There is no reason why a square is necessarily larger than a circle.

The Examiner asserts without support in the references that the results are not unexpected. Applicant accordingly respectfully submits that this is also impermissible hindsight in light of Applicant's disclosure.

Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the Examiner has not made a *prima facie* case against the claims.

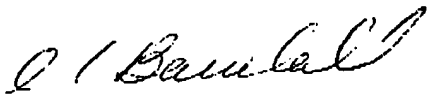
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Please charge any fees other than the issue fee to deposit account 14-1270. Please credit any overpayments to the same account.

Applicant respectfully submits that he has addressed each issue raised by the Examiner and that the application is accordingly in condition for allowance. Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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